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Katie Couric/ Debates and dinner for St. Paul

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Article Last Updated: 09/03/2008 11:52:00 PM CDT

Friday marks Katie Couric's two-year anniversary as anchor of the "CBS Evening News" and if her personable and confident demeanor at the Xcel Energy Center on Wednesday, where she's covering the Republican National Convention, was any indication, she's comfortable in her role. She's also excited about the "Stand Up to Cancer" telethon (7 p. m. Friday, ABC, NBC, CBS) where she will team up with fellow news anchors Brian Williams and Charlie Gibson.

Here's some of what she had to say when we caught up with her at the X before Wednesday's live newscast.

On the John McCain/Sarah Palin ticket: "I think it's fascinating. It certainly adds a whole new dimension to our coverage. Very little is known about Sarah Palin, and we're getting to know her a little more every day. I think it will be really exciting and interesting to hear what she has to say tonight and in the days and weeks to come, when she's in a less controlled environment."

On what she's looking forward to in the next couple months leading up to the election: "The debates. I think there will be so much riding on the debates and how the candidates do. Peoples' interests will be very heightened, they'll be watching carefully and I think they'll determine or ascertain their comfort level with each candidate. I'm a citizen, an American,

a voter just like everyone else, and I'm really interested in watching those take place."

On being under the microscope for the past two years: "I'm really just focused on the work, and I try and drown out the white noise. I'm really enjoying my work and I'm really enjoying my life. ... I think that when people are negative, nasty or snarky it says much more about them than it does about me and their own personal unhappiness or the lack of fulfillment in their own lives. That's just my perspective, and I think it's a healthy one."

On St. Paul vs. Minneapolis: Oh, please don't ask me that. St. Paul sometimes doesn't get a fair shake, and I said Minneapolis instead of St. Paul in a piece. My god, it's sort of like I beat my child. I corrected it on the air, and then we did a whole piece on St. Paul, so hopefully they've forgiven me. If they haven't, I really don't know what else I can do except maybe fix the whole city dinner.

(Well, in that case, we like hotdish.)

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